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Security Council

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Letter dated 11 February 2009 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone (see annex), which covers the Committee's activities during the period 1 January to 31 December 2008. The report is submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

(*Signed*) **Le Luong Minh**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone

09-23907 (E) 180209

Annex

Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) of 8 October 1997 concerning Sierra Leone covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2008.

2. For 2008, the Bureau consisted of Le Luong Minh (Viet Nam) as Chairman, with the delegations of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Panama providing the Vice-Chairpersons. During the reporting period, the Committee held one session of informal consultations.

II. Background information and summary of the work of the Committee

A. Background information

3. By its resolution 1132 (1997), the Security Council, determining that the situation in Sierra Leone, following the military coup of 25 May 1997, constituted a threat to international peace and security in the region, imposed a mandatory ban on the sale or supply by States to Sierra Leone of arms and related materiel as well as petroleum and petroleum products. By the same resolution, the Council also imposed travel restrictions on members of the military junta and adult members of their families, and decided to establish a Committee to oversee the implementation of the measures.

4. Subsequently, by its resolution 1156 (1998) of 15 March 1998, the Council lifted the oil embargo. By its resolution 1171 (1998) of 5 June 1998, the Council confirmed the removal of sanctions on the Government and reimposed the arms embargo on non-governmental forces, as well as the travel ban on leading members of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and of the former military junta. The Council also decided that States would notify all exports from their territories of arms or related materiel to Sierra Leone to the Committee established by resolution 1132 (1997), that the Government of Sierra Leone would mark, register and notify to the Committee all imports made by it of those items, and that the Committee would report regularly to the Council on notifications so received.

5. In its resolution 1306 (2000) of 5 July 2000, the Council decided, inter alia, that all States should, for an initial period of 18 months, prohibit the direct or indirect import of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone to their territory. In the same resolution, the Council also decided that diamonds controlled by the Government of Sierra Leone through the certificate of origin regime would be exempt from those measures. The prohibitions on diamonds not controlled by the certificate of origin regime were extended for additional periods of 11 months and 6 months, respectively, by resolutions 1385 (2001) of 19 December 2001 and 1446 (2002) of 4 December 2002.

6. On 5 June 2003, the President of the Security Council read out a statement to the press in which he noted, inter alia, that in the light of the increased efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone to control and manage its diamond industry and ensure proper control over diamond-mining areas, as well as the Government's full participation in the Kimberley Process, the members of the Council had agreed not to renew the prohibition against the import of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone not controlled by the certificate of origin regime.

7. With the expiration of the diamond sanctions, the mandate of the Committee is once again wholly contained in resolution 1171 (1998). The arms embargo on non-governmental forces and the travel restrictions imposed by that resolution remain in force.[1]

B. Summary of the activities of the Committee

8. In a letter dated 7 January 2008, the Chairman informed the Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone of the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1793 (2007) on 21 December 2007, whereby the Council, inter alia, decided to exempt from the travel restrictions imposed by paragraph 5 of resolution 1171 (1998) the travel of any witnesses whose presence at trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone is required. In the same letter, the Chairman referred to a letter addressed to him from the Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, dated 31 December 2007, in which the Registrar sought a waiver of the travel restrictions to allow for a listed individual to travel to the Netherlands to appear as a witness in the trail of former Liberian President Charles Taylor. In this connection, the Chairman explained that in the light of resolution 1793 (2007), advance approval by the Committee was not required in the specific case referred to in the Registrar's letter of 31 December 2007; however, the Chairman informed the Registrar that the Committee had taken note of the relevant travel details provided. In the same letter, the Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, sought the agreement of the Special Court for Sierra Leone on notification procedures for the travel of listed individuals pursuant to paragraph 8 of resolution 1793 (2007), which would be modelled upon the notification procedures agreed between the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia in connection with the similar exemptions to the travel ban concerning Liberia, as set out in Security Council resolution 1688 (2006).

9. In a reply to the Chairman dated 15 January 2008, the Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone confirmed to the Committee the notification procedures to be followed in connection with the travel of any individuals included on the Committee's travel ban list whose presence at trial before the Special Court is required.

10. In a letter dated 1 May 2008, the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone wrote to the Chairman with recommendations for the revision of the Committee's travel ban list in the light of overall security, judicial, political and other developments in Sierra Leone. In the same letter, the Government of Sierra Leone suggested that, in reviewing the notification provision for arms exports to Sierra Leone set out in paragraph 4 of resolution 1171 (1998), the Committee might wish

[1] The latest version of the travel ban list is available from the Committee's website at: http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1132/tblist.shtml.

to take into consideration, inter alia, the following: the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials, which Sierra Leone had ratified; the adoption by the General Assembly of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons; and the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, to which Sierra Leone has been contributing.

11. On 30 May 2008, the Committee held informal consultations to consider the letter dated 1 May 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations.

12. Subsequently, on 9 June 2008, the Committee decided to remove (de-list) the names of the following individuals from the list of individuals affected by the travel restrictions imposed by paragraph 5 of resolution 1171 (1998): Sergeant George Adams, Reverend David Bangura, Mr. Kandeh S. Bangura, Mr. Kandeh Sorie-Sebba Bangura, Sergeant K. Bangura, Corporal Momoh Bangura, Lance Corporal Hector Bob-Lahai, Lieutenant Eldred Collins, Warrant Officer II Franklyn Conteh, Staff Sergeant Moses Kabia, Sergeant K. Kallay, Mr. David G. Kallon, Mr. Mohamed Saidu Kamara, Warrant Officer II Samuel Kargbo, Mr. Bai Hinga Kurrary-Bangura, Colonel Michael S. Lamin, Captain A.Y.K. Mansaray, Colonel Gibril Massaquoi, Mr. Abdulai Michael Munu, Lance Corporal Abdul M. Sesay, Lance Corporal Ibrahim D. Sesay, Captain Paul Thomas, Sergeant Sulaiman Turay and Captain Lawrence S. Womandia.

13. On 25 June 2008, the Chairman wrote to the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations informing him of the Committee's decision to remove the names of 24 individuals from the list of individuals affected by the travel restrictions imposed by paragraph 5 of resolution 1171 (1998). In the same letter, and in connection with the Government of Sierra Leone's suggestion regarding the review of the notification requirements for the delivery of arms or related materiel to Sierra Leone set out in paragraph 4 of resolution 1171 (1998), the Chairman informed the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone that the members were of the view that decisions on the future of the arms embargo fall within the purview of the Security Council, and that the Committee had therefore decided to convey the Permanent Representative's letter to the President of the Security Council, drawing particular attention to the suggestions related to the notification requirements set out in resolution 1171 (1998). The Chairman conveyed the 1 May 2008 letter from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations to the President of the Security Council on 25 June 2008, for the attention and appropriate action of the Council.

C. Violations and alleged violations of the sanctions regime

14. During the reporting period, no violations or alleged violations of the sanctions regime were brought to the attention of the Committee.

III. Observations

15. In 2008, the Committee removed the names of 24 individuals from the list of individuals affected by the travel restrictions imposed by paragraph 5 of resolution 1171 (1998). This leaves six individuals remaining on the list, the former leader of

the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council junta and five others who have been indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The de-listing of 24 individuals was made possible in part by the improved security situation in Sierra Leone. As noted in the sixth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (S/2008/281), the Government of Sierra Leone continued to make commendable efforts to implement its agenda for peace consolidation and economic recovery. The same report states that: "The security situation in the country has continued to improve, owing to the increased capacity of the security sector. The commitment of the leaders of the Mano River Union countries to a peaceful resolution of the issues confronting them has also contributed to the prevailing stability in Sierra Leone and the subregion." In the light of these developments, and the suggestion by the Government of Sierra Leone regarding the review of the notification requirements for the delivery of arms or related materiel to Sierra Leone set out in paragraph 4 of resolution 1171 (1998), the Chairman encourages members of the Committee and the Security Council to continue consultations to determine the appropriate time to streamline the legal basis for sanctions in Sierra Leone.

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General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda items 15 and 16

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Letter dated 5 February 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of the resolution, unanimously adopted by the Senate of Pakistan on 23 January 2009, concerning the situation in Palestine arising from the Israeli military aggression on Gaza (see annex).

Reaffirming the full support and solidarity of Pakistan with the Palestinians in their just struggle for the restitution of their legitimate and inalienable national rights, the resolution condemned in the strongest terms the Israeli military aggression against the Palestinians. The resolution noted that the Israeli aggression violated the Charter of the United Nations, international law and international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions, and that the Israeli policies and practice of targeting the civilians, including Palestinian women and children, were tantamount to committing acts that fell under the purview of international conventions against genocide and amounted to state terrorism. The Senate of Pakistan expressed deep concern about the inability of the international community to take effective action at the political, moral and legal levels to stop the Israeli aggression and to uphold the principles of the Charter and other international laws. The Senate of Pakistan also urged the world community, in particular the major powers, to use their considerable influence to safeguard the legitimate rights of the people of Palestine.

I should be grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Farukh **Amil**
Acting Permanent Representative

09-23970 (E) 190209

Annex to the letter dated 5 February 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Resolution adopted by the Senate of Pakistan on the Israeli attacks on Gaza

The Senate of Pakistan, having reviewed the situation arising from the Israeli aggression in Gaza and the humanitarian consequences thereof, has unanimously adopted the following resolution:

The Senate of Pakistan:

i. Expresses its strongest condemnation of the barbaric Israeli military aggression against Palestinians, both by air and ground forces, which has caused thousands of civilian casualties and caused large-scale damage to property.

ii. Determines that the Israeli aggression in Gaza violated principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions.

iii. Also determines that the Israeli policies and practice of targeting the civilian population, including Palestinian women and children, are tantamount to committing acts that fall in the purview of the international conventions against genocide and tantamount to state terrorism.

iv. Notes with deep concern the pathetic inability of the international community, including major powers, the United Nations, the Arab and the Islamic world, to take effective actions at the political, moral and legal planes to stop Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people in Gaza and to uphold the principles of the Charter and international law, including humanitarian law, and also condemns their double standards.

v. Urges the international community, in particular the major powers, and especially the United States, to use its considerable influence to safeguard the legitimate rights, including the right to life, which is the most fundamental of the people of Palestine, as well as to use all means to dissuade Israel from continuing to execute its atrocities against the civilians and the defenceless Palestinians.

vi. Reaffirms the strong condemnation by the Senate of Pakistan of the Israeli attacks against the Palestinian people in Gaza and reaffirms the total solidarity of the people of Pakistan with their Palestinian brethren.

vii. Reaffirms Pakistan's full support and solidarity with the people of Palestine in their just struggle for the restitution of their legitimate and inalienable national rights, including the right to establish an independent Palestinian state on their own homeland, with Al-Quds Sharif as its capital.

viii. Commends the Government of Pakistan for its actions to sensitize the international community and particularly the Organization of the Islamic Conference to fulfil their indispensable responsibilities in upholding the rights of the Palestinian people.

ix. Requests the Government of Pakistan to expedite the supply of humanitarian and relief assistance for the Palestinian people in Gaza and stresses the importance of keeping the supply routes over land open along the Refa crossing.

x. Resolves that the Government of Pakistan should forward this resolution to the United Nations, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the League of Arab States and the diplomatic community in Pakistan.